

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, September 22, 2014 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon, Ken Masters, Cathy Pratt, Deputy Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance. Auditor Mary Ann Beard was absent.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the September 8th meeting were approved on a motion by Ken Masters with a second by Mark Bacon.

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Phil Caviness presented a contract for Catherine Custer who was hired to replace James Meyers as Investigator. The contract was approved on a motion by Mark Bacon and seconded by Ken Masters. Motion carried.

Mr. Caviness also informed the Commissioners that Angie Buckley from his office had taken the vacant position in the Clerk's office and he will be hiring a replacement as quickly as possible.

CLERK

Debbie Richardson, Rush County Clerk presented a contract for with Know.Ink for the E-Poll Books. These will be used in the November elections. The contract was approved on a motion by Mark Bacon, and seconded by Ken Masters. Motion carried. Richardson was also pleased to announce the hiring of Angie Buckley as her Deputy.

CHAMBER

Sandy Fussner, Executive Director of the Rush County Chamber of Commerce was present. The Commissioners congratulated the Chamber on a great Willkie Day/Rush Fest.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES HEALTHCARE PLAN

An amendment to the county employee's healthcare plan was presented to the Commissioners. The amendment reflects changes in the plan made necessary by the National Affordable Healthcare Act. The amendment was approved on a motion by Mark Bacon, seconded by Ken Masters. Motion carried.

CHICKEN ORDINANCE

At 9:15 AM, a hearing was opened to hear discussion on an amendment to the Fowl Ordinance. The Ordinance as amended by the Area Plan Commission was presented to the Commissioners by Rhea Dawn Buckley, Rush County APC Director. She explained that the amendment reflected a change in the fee charged from \$25 to \$10. She briefly discussed the scoring system which was changed to make it easier for property owners on less than 10 acres to keep fowl. Several members of the community, including Joyce Morrell, Victoria Foley, Tom Monka and Abby Wehr voiced their concerns with the ordinance. They were particularly concerned with the fee. Jeff Slaton, a member of the APC Board stated that the fee is there to

cover the cost of going out to do inspections once a complaint is made. He said it is a complaint-driven issue. After much discussion by the Commissioners and members of the audience, Mark Bacon made the motion to send it back to the APC asking that the fee be rescinded from the ordinance. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY TRUCK BIDS

At 9:45 A.M., bids were accepted and opened for the purchase of 6 highway trucks with 6 snowplows. Four bids were presented and read by Rush County Attorney, Leigh Morning: Stoops Freightliner \$882,900.00, Rush Truck Centers \$881,490.00, Shirks International \$853,757.46, and JX Peterbilt \$884,166.00. After the reading of the bids, Jerry Sitton asked that the bids be taken under advisement in order for him to use the scoring system he has to determine the best financial decision for the county. A motion was made by Ken Masters to take the bids under advisement. The motion was seconded by Mark Bacon. Motion carried.

Jerry Sitton asked the Commissioners for permission to close the highway department on Wednesday morning for the funeral for fellow employee, Jay Evans. Mark Bacon made the motion to allow the highway employees time to attend the funeral. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bruce Levi, President of the Rush County Commissioners, also gave permission for the highway department to use their trucks in the funeral procession. Jerry Sitton thanked them for approving his request.

Jerry Sitton also discussed Bridge 94 - more commonly known as the first covered bridge. He indicated that more structural damage was discovered during the recent repairs being made to the bridge. Sitton said the county could either keep the bridge closed until moneys could be secured to repair the bridge; or make additional temporary repairs to the bridge and lower the weight limit from 10 tons to 3 tons. The commissioners discussed the possible repair options and determined that they needed more information in order to make their decision. They discussed that they would like to see an engineer's report before doing so. Mark Bacon made the motion that they take the issue under advisement until they meet again in two weeks. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jeff Sherwood submitted the current Inmate Report with a population of 36. Sherwood notified the commissioners there was an electrical problem at the jail on Saturday night but that it was repaired with the replacement of some new breakers. He also said they had received a bill from RMH for patient transport but that once he called and talked to Gretchen Smith at the hospital, the bill was corrected.

BONDS

Two bonds were presented to the commissioners for approval, one for Susan Spaeth in the Treasurer's office. Mark Bacon moved to approve the bond. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried. Another bond was presented for Ashley Stevens, the Community Corrections Director. Ken Masters made the motion to approve the bond for Ashley Stevens. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DRAINAGE ISSUE

Julie Newhouse was present to speak to the Commissioners on behalf of the Mayor who was out of town. She said the issue at hand was the drainage around the new Farm Credit building and Blue Ribbon Estates. She indicated that the city and the land owners would like to get the issue resolved. It is their intention to petition the drainage board to create a drain to correct the problem. She presented a memorandum of understanding that she wished for the Commissioners to sign indicating their desire to work with the city to get this issue resolved. Mark Bacon made a motion to sign the memorandum of understanding. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

EMS run sheets: August run reports were received from Raleigh Fire Department and July run reports were received from Carthage Fire Department.

2015 Courthouse Calendar: Motion by Mark Bacon to approve the calendar as presented. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Claims were approved on a motion by Ken Masters and seconded by Mark Bacon.

Mark Bacon moved to pay the payroll claims. Ken Masters seconded the motion.

Mark Bacon moved to adjourn. Ken Masters offered a second. Motion carried.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Ken Masters
Ken Masters

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor